

Application No.: 10/822,955
Amendment and Response dated February 15, 2007
Reply to Office Action of November 16, 2006
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Arguments / Remarks:

Claim Amendments

Claims 1-7, 9 and 23-30 are pending. Claims 5-7 and 9-22 have been canceled. Claim 1 has been amended to include the limitations of claims 6 and 7. Claims 1-3 have also been amended provide to consistency among antecedent basis for certain claimed elements. Claim 8 has been amended to include the limitations of claims 1 and 2.

Claims 23-30 have been added. Support for claims 23 and 27 may be found in originally filed claim 3; in the specification at page 5, paragraph [0022], lines 5-6; and in the specification at page 6, paragraph [0023], lines 7-9. Support for claims 24 and 28 may be found in the specification at page 6, paragraph [0024], lines 6-7. Support for claim 25 may be found in the specification at page 8, paragraph [0033]. Support for claims 26 and 29 may be found in the specification at page 6, paragraph [0023], lines 5-6. Support for claim 30 may be found in the specification at page 7, paragraph [0027], lines 8-11.

No new matter has been added with these claim amendments. Entry of the claim amendments is respectfully requested.

Drawings

The drawings were objected to as allegedly not being in compliance with 37 C.F.R. §1.121(d). Submitted concurrently herewith are formal drawings. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the objection to the drawings is respectfully requested.

Specification

The specification was objected to as allegedly not providing adequate reference to certain co-pending applications in paragraph [0025]. In particular, the examiner suggested that a patent number or a patent application number be provided. Applicants respectfully submit that the applications numbers were provided in a Preliminary Amendment mailed February 25, 2005. Further, the publication numbers of the co-pending applications mentioned in paragraph

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[0025] have been added by the current submission. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the objection to the specification is respectfully requested.

Section 112 Rejections

Claims 1-8 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph as allegedly being indefinite. Applicants respectfully submit that the amended claims satisfy the section 112 requirements. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the section 112 rejections is respectfully requested.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 7 and 8 were judged to contain allowable subject matter. Claim 1 has been amended to include the limitations of claims 6 and 7. Claim 8 has been amended to include the limitations of claims 1 and 2. Both claims were further amended to address alleged section 112 concerns.

In view of these amendments, it is respectfully submitted that independent claims 1 and 8 are patentably distinct and in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the claim rejections are respectfully requested.

Summary

This application is believed to be in condition for allowance. Favorable action thereon is therefore respectfully solicited.

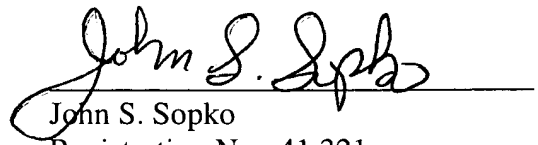
Should the Examiner have any questions or comments concerning the above, the Examiner is respectfully invited to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number given below.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge payment of any additional fees associated with this communication, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account

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No. 08-2461. Such authorization includes authorization to charge fees for extensions of time, if any, under 37 C.F.R § 1.17 and also should be treated as a constructive petition for an extension of time in this reply or any future reply pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.136.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "John S. Sopko", written over a horizontal line.

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